

DEMAND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY COSPONSOR THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

On the first day of the 110th Congress, Congressman Goodlatte introduced the bipartisan balanced budget Constitutional amendment, which will force Congress to enact fiscally responsible spending measures, reduce the deficit, and ensure that the money our citizens work so hard to earn is not squandered on wasteful spending and programs.

The federal government must be lean and efficient and fiscally responsible. We must work to both eliminate every cent of waste and squeeze every cent of value out of each dollar our citizens entrust to us. Families all across our nation understand what it means to make tough decisions each day about what they can and cannot afford, and elected officials should not be allowed to ignore these tough decisions in the name of political expediency when creating spending policies for the federal government.

Congress took a dramatic step forward last year when it passed the Deficit Reduction Act. This new law found savings of approximately \$40 billion over the next five years by eliminating wasteful spending and programs. However, that law was just a first step and showed how hard it is for Congress to put a dent in the deficit without being forced to do so.

The balanced budget amendment is a commonsense measure that is long overdue. It requires that Congress not spend more than it receives in revenues, requires the President to submit a balanced budget to Congress, and requires a 3/5 majority to increase the debt limit. A Constitutional amendment will force Congress to eliminate unnecessary and wasteful spending and make the decisions necessary to balance the budget and eliminate the federal deficit.

We must continue to control spending, paving the way for a return to surpluses and ultimately paying down the national debt, rather than allow big spenders to lead us further down the road of chronic deficits and in doing so leave our children and grandchildren saddled with debt that is not their own.

Join this fight to balance the federal budget and rein in excessive spending once and for all. Cosponsor the balanced budget Constitutional amendment!

A section-by-section summary of this legislation is printed on the back of this handout. This legislation is the same version that Congressman Istook introduced in the 109th Congress. For more information, or to cosponsor this important measure, please contact Branden Ritchie, Congressman Goodlatte's Legislative Director, at 5-5431 or branden.ritchie@mail.house.gov.